

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001892

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN:JG

APPROVED BY S - THE SECRETARY

S/S: JP,OFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001892

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

FOR THE AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM THE SECRETARY

1. IN CERTAIN OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MY INTERVIEW WITH BUSINESS WEEK WHICH WAS PUBLISHED TODAY, THERE IS A MISINTERPRETATION OF THE ANSWER TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS. IN ORDER TO AVOID A RECURRENCE OF THE UNFORTUNATE DEBATES OF LAST YEAR, I WANT YOU TO ASSURE YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I BELIEVE US-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IS MUCH IMPROVED AND, INDEED, IN A VERY SATISFACTORY STATE TODAY. THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WHICH IS BEING PLAYED UP IN THIS COUNTRY DEALT CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH A CHARGE THAT THE REPORTER SAID WAS BEING MADE IN EUROPE

ABOUT THE SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE OIL EMBARGO AND THEREFORE THE QUESTION DEALT WITH THE PAST AND CHARGES MADE BY UNSPECIFIED EUROPEANS. AS I POINTED OUT AT THE END OF MY ANSWER NO FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THESE UNNAMED SOURCES IN EUROPE. I WANT YOU TO STRESS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT I BELIEVE OUR CO-OPERATION, PARTICULARLY ON ENERGY MATTERS, IS EXCELLENT AND I SEE NO PROBLEMS IN THAT RESPECT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THAT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE VERY PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION WE HAD IN THE NATO RESTRICTED SESSION. FROM OUR SIDE WE WILL DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE FRUITLESS EXCHANGE ILLUSTRATED BY THESE NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. IN EUROPE, THE CHARGE IS MADE THAT YOU HAVE SOLD OUT WESTERN CIVILIZATION FOR 18 MONTHS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WHY DO EUROPEANS FEEL THIS HOSTILITY TOWARD THE U.S. AND TOWARD YOU?

A. WELL, OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO THESE EUROPEANS ARE--FOR MY OWN EDUCATION. WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE HAD US DO?

Q. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT MILITARY ACTION.

A. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS THEY REPRESENT SYSTEMATICALLY OPPOSED EVERY MOVE WE MADE IN THE MIDDLE EAST; EVERY STRONG ACTION THAT WAS TAKEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY THE U.S. HAD WE TAKEN MILITARY ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE WOULD HAVE FACED THE VIOLENT OPPPOSITION FROM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS.

THE DIFFICULTY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS CAUSED IN PART BY OUR INABILITY TO ORGANIZE COOPERATION EVEN FOR NON-MILITARY ACTION. THE EFFORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION MADE DIPLOMATICALLY TO LIFT THE OIL EMBARGO REDUCED, AT LEAST FOR A TIME, THE DANGERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT
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GAVE EVERYONE A BREATHING SPACE. WE GAVE UP NOTHING. EXCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION, WHICH WAS A CHIMERICAL IDEA.

WHEN WE WENT ON A MILITARY ALERT FOR ONE DAY, WE WERE ACCUSED OF HAVING DONE IT FOR POLITICAL REASONS. WAS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF WATERGATE THE U.S. TAKE MILITARY ACTION? AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

WHY ARE THE EUROPEANS SO HOSTILE TO THE U.S.? ...

I THINK THEY SUFFER FROM AN ENORMOUS FEELING OF INSECURITY. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR SAFETY DEPENDS ON THE U.S., THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING DEPENDS ON THE U.S. AND THEY KNOW THAT WE'RE ESSENTIALLY RIGHT IN WHAT WE'RE DOING. SO THE SENSE OF IMPOTENCE, THE INABILITY TO DO DOMESTICALLY WHAT THEY KNOW TO BE RIGHT, PRODUCES A CERTAIN PEEVISHNESS WHICH ALWAYS STOPS JUST SHORT OF POLICY ACTIONS. NO FOREIGN MINISTER EVER SAYS THIS.

END TEXT KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE001892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AAHARTMAN:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0304
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750177/aaaacqar.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW FOR THE AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, US, GE, BUSINESS WEEK, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006